

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application after the Examiner withdrew the finality of the immediately previous office action following the applicant's request for continued examination. The Examiner allows claims 1-17. The Examiner rejects claims 18-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cappels (U.S. Patent 5,731,843) in view of Ichiraku (U.S. Patent No. 6,079,379).

Claims 1-42 continue to be pending in the application.

The Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Claims Allowed

The Applicants thank Examiner Tran for allowing claims 1-17.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects claims 18-42 as obvious over Cappels in view of Ichiraku.

Claim 18 recites *an edge detector ... responsive to a pixel clock*. Claim 31 recites *detecting a transition... responsive to a pixel clock signal*. The Examiner alleges the recited edge detector is “is anticipated by the differentiator 42, the threshold detector 44, and the comparator 46 of Cappels” (Office action mailed February 25, page 3). But neither Cappels differentiator 42 nor the threshold detector 44 operates responsive to any clock, let alone a pixel clock as recited. Cappels phase adjuster 50 generates a signal 64 but this signal is not routed to the differentiator 42 or the detector 44. Rather, it is routed to the comparator 46 as shown in Figure 3.

And Ichiraku's phase adjusting circuit 2 does not provide the missing element. Even if, *arguendo*, Ichiraku's phase adjusting circuit 2 generated the pixel clock recited (it does not), the combination of Ichiraku's phase adjusting circuit 2 and Cappels differentiator 42 and threshold detector 44 would not then result in Cappels differentiator 42 and detector 44 operating responsive to a pixel clock as recited.

Claim 18 recites *a phase adjust circuit to generate the pixel clock by selecting one of a plurality of phases of a phase locked loop clock responsive to a phase adjust signal*. Claim 31 recites *detecting a transition of an analog image signal responsive to a pixel clock signal and determining which of the plurality of clock phases corresponds to the transition by substantially simultaneously comparing the transition to the plurality of clock phases*. The Examiner alleges the recited phase adjust circuit is met by “the phase adjuster 50 which produces an adjusted pixel sampling clock 64 that matches the phase of the video signal 52.”

But the signal 64 is not provided or otherwise coupled to the differentiator 42 or the threshold detector 44. The signal 64, therefore, does not disclose the pixel clock recited.

The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to combine the sampling clock generating circuit 21 of Ichiraku into Cappels' system to "accurately produce the sampling clock signal having an appropriate phase for sampling pixel data of the video signal." (Office action mailed February 25, page 4). But this motivation is neither necessary in Cappels nor disclosed in either Cappels or Ichiraku since Cappels' system provides a solution to that very problem. Cappels's solution is complete. The Examiner, therefore, appears to have improperly used hindsight from the present application to construct motivation to combine the references.

Even if motivation to combine was present (it is not), the combination of Ichiraku's sampling clock generating circuit 21 with Cappel's system would not result in *an edge detector ... responsive to a pixel clock or a phase adjust circuit to generate the pixel clock by selecting one of a plurality of phases of a phase locked loop clock responsive to a phase adjust signal..* since Cappels' phase adjuster 50, even if modified with Ichiraku's sampling circuit 21, would not result in a system that discloses the limitations recited.

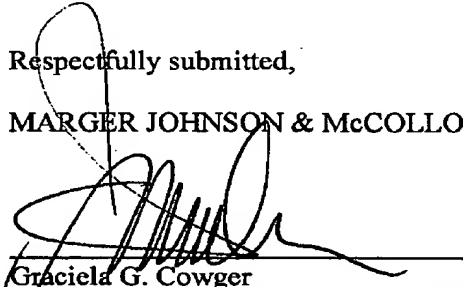
Conclusion

The Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of claims as amended. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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is being transmitted to the U.S. Patent and
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(703) 872-9306, on May 24, 2004.


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